

Frequently Asked Questions

When will your next academy class start?

We usually run two academy classes a year, with the start date being in January and July. *Due to the current state of the economy and budgeting issues we will not have an academy class until further notice.* The academy is 30 weeks long with an additional 12 weeks of field training.

Do I have to fill out an application before taking the written test?

No, you do not have to fill out an application before taking the written test. Simply show up with a photo ID at one of the available test dates.

Do I have to sign up to take the physical test?

No, you **do not** have to call or sign up to take the test. As long as you have a signed physicians authorization form and have passed the written test just show up at an available physical ability test date. The physician authorization form can be found on our website www.HCPD.org.

How long will the hiring process take?

The hiring process involves various steps and could take between three to six months. Your cooperation in completing the necessary paperwork at each stage of the process will help make the process quicker.

What does the written exam consist of?

The written examination consist of 100 multiple choice questions. You will be given two hours to complete the exam. There are five sections to the test which include Reading Comprehension, Quantitative Problem Solving, Interpretation, Writing Skills and Verbal Problem Solving.

When is the next test date?

The written exam is scheduled and offered on an ongoing basis. Test dates can be found on our website www.hcpd.org. If you fail the written test you may retest after six months. If you fail the physical ability test you may retake the test the next time it's offered. The sooner you take the test and initiate the hiring process, the sooner you will be presented to the Chief of Police for selection. All testing will be held at the Police & Fire Training Facility, located at 2200 Scott Wheeler Drive Marriottsville, Maryland 21104. Directions to the facility can be found on our website www.HCPD.org.

Is the academy a live-in academy?

No, the academy is non-residential. The academy is held Monday-Friday, typically from 7am-3pm. Based on training needs there will be some weekends and evening hours.

What is the maximum age to become a police officer?

There is no age limit. As long as you're able to pass all phases of the process, you're eligible!

Will my military experience help?

Each applicant is viewed individually throughout the application process. It is a very competitive process and as such every aspect of your life is considered when making a selection for hire. The more positive attributes you present the better your chances are of being selected.

Can I go to school while I'm employed with the police department?

Yes, officers and cadets can attend school while they are employed with us. The Howard County Police Department offers tuition reimbursement at any accredited college of your choice. You may also take part in our partnership with Howard County Community College to gain an Associates Degree while in the academy.

When can I apply for a specialty assignment such as Criminal Investigations or Tactical Section?

You may apply for a specialty position after the completion of your 18 month probationary period. Your probationary period begins at the date of hire.

Am I paid while attending the academy?

Yes, you will be paid at the rate stated on your hire date.

After graduating from the academy can I request where I'm assigned?

You are assigned based on operational needs. A request may be honored if operational needs allow.